

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03135 122340Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 /001 W
-----023797 122345Z /61

Z 122325Z JUL 79
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1756
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAGUA 3135

NODIS

E.O. 12065: XDS-2 7/12/99 (O'DONNELL, THOMAS J.) OR- M
TAGS: PGOV, NU
SUBJECT: (S) MEETING WITH SOMOZA-- FURTHER DETAILS

REF: MANAGUA 3123

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT

2. "TACHITO" SOMOZA JOINED THE MEETING BETWEEN HIS FATHER
AND THE AMB ROUGHLY 15 MINUTES AFTER IT BEGAN. BY THAT
TIME, THE CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL HAD BEEN COMPLETED
AND THE PRESIDENT WAS REITERATING HIS CONCERN OVER THE
FOUR MILLION DOLLAR ARMS SHIPMENT "APPROVED BY THE STATE
DEPARTMENT MUNITIONS CONTROL OFFICE" TO THE CAZA Y PESCA
CLUB IN PANAMA. HE SAID IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE TO HIM THAT
THE STATE DEPARTMENT COULD POSSIBLY BELIEVE THAT SO
LARGE A QUANTITY OF ARMS COULD BE FOR SPORTING PURPOSES
ONLY.

3. TACHITO PICKED UP ON THE THEME OF OUTSIDE SUPPORT
FOR THE SANDINISTAS, OFFERING TO PROVIDE TAIL NUMBER
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AND PILOT IDENTIFICATION OF FIVE U.S.- REGISTERED
"PUSH-PULL" AIRCRAFT WICH WERE BEING USED BY THE FSLN.
TACHITO ALSO CLAIMED THE GN HAD RECENTLY CAPTURED
LARGE NUMBERS OF U.S.- MANUFACTURED SHOTGUNS, CLAIMING
HE HIMSELF HAD SEEN OVER 50 IN RECENT DAYS. TACHITO
ALSO MENTIONED AN ALLEGED INCIDENT IN WHICH A RED CROSS
CHARTERED PLANE FROM BERIUT TO COSTA RICA HAD BEEN

DISCOVERED BY ITS PILOT TO BE CARRYING LARGE QUANTITIES OF PLO MUNITIONS TO THE FSLN. TACHITO CLAIMED THIS LATTER INCIDENT HAD CAUSED WIDESPREAD REACTION IN THE U.S. THE AMB SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE INCIDENT.

4. AFTER STATING "I DON'T WANT TO BE THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK," TACHITO CLAIMED THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE OF WIDESPREAD REPRISALS AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS BY THE FSLN IN LEON AND JINOTEPE. HE CITED INCIDENTS IN JINOTEPE IN WHICH THE ENTIRE FAMILY OF A GN AIR CONTROLLER HAD BEEN LINED UP IN THE MAIN SQUARE AND PUBLICLY EXECUTED. HE CLAIMED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INCREASINGLY INDICATE THAT THE FSLN IS CARRYING OUT A SYSTEMATIC AND BRUTAL PLAN OF REPRISALS AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS. AT THIS POINT, THE PRESIDENT INTERVENED TO STATE THAT THE REASON HE WAS PERMITTING FOREIGN PRESS TO ACCOMPANY GN TROOPS INTO BATTLE AREAS WAS TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF SENSELESS VIOLENCE BY HIS OWN TROOPS. TACHITO ADDED THAT THE COURT MARTIAL NOW HAD OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE AGAINST THE GN SOLDIER WHO HAD KILLED ABC CORRESPONDENT BILL STEWART AND THAT THE SOLDIER WOULD SURELY BE CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO AT LEAST 30 YEARS IN PRISON.

5. MOST OF THE INCIDENTS NOTED IN PARA 3 ARE OLD ONES, REVEALING THAT TACHITO CAME IN TO THE CONVERSATION MORE
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OR LESS ON CUE TO EMPHASIZE THE BLATANT NATURE OF THE ARMS FLOW TO THE FSLN.
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